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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
Takahiro OSUMI, et al. : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION
SERIAL NO.: 09/986,538 :
FILED: November 9, 2001 :
FOR: KERATOTIC PLUG REMOVER :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In advance of prosecution please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 2, lines 7-8, please amend the second full paragraph to read as follows:

--Keratotic plug removers are described by Uemura et al. in US. 5,512,277 and U.S.

6,306,382.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

-- 4. (Amended) The keratotic plug remover according to claim 1, wherein polymer

(A) is a polymer selected from the group consisting of (a) homopolymers of a vinyl monomer having a (meth)acryloyl skeleton or styrene skeleton and a sulfonic, group, or a salt thereof,